Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~determining when to update~~ updating software ~~of~~ on a client device comprising:

receiving ~~client activity data~~ billing log data from the client device, the billing log data specifying past consumption of pay-per-view (PPV) audio-visual content received by the client device from a server over a broadcast network during a selected period of time; and

downloading an update for the ~~updating~~ software resident on the client device from the server, the software, when executing on the client device, for decrypting the PPV audio-visual content and controlling consumption of the PPV audio-visual content, the downloading being performed when the ~~client activity data~~ received billing log data indicates ~~activity~~ consumption of PPV audio-visual content by the client device at less than a predetermined threshold for a the selected period of time.

2. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining a billing database for the client device using the billing log data ~~client activity data~~.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software resident on the client device comprises tamper resistant software.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the updated client device software comprises ~~at least one of~~ a new cryptographic key~~, a new cryptographic technique, a new tamper resistant technique, and a new software configuration~~.

8. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for ~~determining when to update~~ updating software ~~of~~ on a client device by

receiving ~~client activity data~~ billing log data from the client device, the billing log data specifying past consumption of pay-per-view (PPV) audio-visual content received by the client device from a server over a broadcast network during a selected period of time; and

downloading an update for the ~~updating~~ software resident on the client device from the server, the software, when executing on the client device, for decrypting the PPV audio-visual content and controlling consumption of the PPV audio-visual content, the downloading being performed when the ~~client activity data~~ received billing log data indicates ~~activity~~ consumption of PPV audio-visual content by the client device at less than a predetermined threshold for ~~a~~ the selected period of time.

9. – 10. (cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions for maintaining a billing database for the client device using the ~~client~~ ~~activity~~ billing log data.

12. (Cancelled)

13. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A server in a content distribution system comprising:

a billing database to store ~~client activity~~ billing log data received from a plurality of client devices, the ~~client activity~~ billing log data ~~comprising~~ specifying past consumption of pay-per-view (PPV) audio-visual content received by a client device from the server over a broadcast network of the content distribution system during a selected period of time ~~information describing at least one of reception of content and consumption of content by each client device~~;

a client software update database to store versions of updateable content reception and consumption software, the software, when executing on the client device, for decrypting the PPV audio-visual content and controlling consumption of the PPV audio-visual content; and

a client software manager configured to receive ~~client activity~~ billing log data from the client devices, to update the billing database using the received ~~client activity~~ billing log data, to mark a client device in the billing database as eligible for receiving updated content reception and consumption software when ~~client activity~~ billing log data for the client device indicates consumption of PPV audio-visual content by the client device at ~~activity~~ less than a predetermined threshold for ~~a~~ the selected period of time, and to download a version of the updateable content reception and consumption software to each marked client device for subsequent use in receiving, decrypting, and consuming content.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the updateable content reception and consumption software comprises tamper resistant software.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the updated content reception and consumption software comprises ~~at least one of~~ a new cryptographic key for decrypting the content~~, a new cryptographic technique, a new tamper-resistant technique, and a new software configuration~~.

24. (Newly presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new cryptographic technique.

25. (Newly presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new tamper resistant technique.

26. (Newly presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new software configuration.

27. (Newly presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the client device comprises a device to receive content from at least one of a satellite television system and a cable television system, and the predetermined threshold comprises a number of PPV movies.

28. (Newly presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new cryptographic technique.

29. (Newly presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new tamper resistant technique.

30. (Newly presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the updated software on the client device comprises a new software configuration.

31. (Newly presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the client device comprises a device to receive content from at least one of a satellite television system and a cable television system, and the predetermined threshold comprises a number of PPV movies.